



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Alaska Region  
Tongass National Forest

648 Mission Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
Phone: (907) 225-3101  
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File Code: 2310

Date: October 10, 2014

Dear National Forest User:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area (MGRA) Management Plan Revision, Commercial Guide, Outfitter and Transporter project is available for public review and comment online at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=37050](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37050).

The EA explains the current conditions of the project area, summarizes public involvement and input, and explains the proposed action, the no action alternative, and a third alternative. The EA documents the expected effects of the alternatives on the environment and people. To request a copy of this EA in hard copy or CD format, please contact Jennifer Berger at the Juneau Ranger District Office at 907-789-6278 or [jberger@fs.fed.us](mailto:jberger@fs.fed.us).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.24(a)(1), a legal notice initiating this 30-day comment period on the MGRA Management Plan Revision, Commercial Guide, Outfitter and Transporter project is expected to be published in the *Juneau Empire*, the newspaper of record for the Tongass Forest Supervisor, in mid- October 2014.

As the Responsible Official, I am seeking your input on the proposed revisions to the MGRA Management Plan addressed in the EA. Your comments should be detailed and specific to the Proposed Action and alternatives in the EA. Please provide the reason(s) you are concerned or have suggestions. Individuals who have submitted specific, written comments during this 30-day comment period or previously during the 30 day public scoping period will have standing to participate in the predecisional review and objection process.

You may provide specific written comments to:

Jennifer Berger  
Juneau Ranger District Office  
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road  
Juneau, AK 99801

[comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us) (please put MGRA in the subject line)

Fax (907)586-8808

The new regulations at 36 CFR 218 now provide for a pre-decision administrative review rather than a post-decision appeal process. After this EA is released, the comment period is completed,



and I have reviewed all the comments, I will release a DRAFT decision (instead of a "final" decision) and EA and publish a legal notice initiating a 45-day objection period in the *Juneau Empire*. At that point, members of the public who commented during this or the formal scoping period may file an objection seeking a pre-decisional administrative review of the proposed project and activities. If an objection is filed, a review process begins. Based on the discussions and findings in that review, I will write a final decision. My decision will be consistent with the final review on the project. It is important to note that the project may be implemented after my final decision. No appeal period will be provided after the final decision is made.

For objection eligibility, specific comments must be written, and include your name and address; project title; and signature or other verification of your identity upon request. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Comments must be received within 30 calendar days following publication of the 30-day comment period for this EA in the *Juneau Empire*. Please be aware that your name, address and comments will become part of the public record and may be available for public inspection.

If you have questions about this project, please contact Jennifer Berger at the Juneau Ranger Office at 907-789-6278 or [jberger@fs.fed.us](mailto:jberger@fs.fed.us). Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process. Your comments and involvement are important to us.

Sincerely,



FORREST COLE  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Brad Orr, District Ranger  
Jennifer Berger, Special Uses Staff

Individuals and entities as defined in 36 CFR 218.2 who submit timely, specific written comments (see 36 CFR 118.2) regarding the proposed project will be eligible to file an objection. Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping, the 30-day EA comment period, or other public involvement opportunity where written comments are requested by the Responsible Official in accordance with 36 CFR 218.5(a).